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PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

AKITOSHI YAMADA, et al.

Application No.: 09/993,641

Filed: November 27, 2001

For: IMAGE PROCESSING  
APPARATUS AND IMAGE  
PROCESSING METHOD

Examiner: S. Rogers

Group Art Unit: 2626

August 31, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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SEP 03 2004

Technology Center 2600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

U.S. Patent No. 5,739,917  
U.S. Patent No. 5,565,994  
U.S. Patent No. 6,057,933  
Europe 0 833 499  
Europe 0 654 940

These documents were cited during prosecution of a European patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the European Search Report dated July 27, 2004 is enclosed.

Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of the Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ed Kmett", is written over a horizontal line.

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